

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 AID-20 IO-14 /154 W

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R 190930Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2659

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LOURENCO MARQUES 0489

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE PRESS: THE NEW LOOK CONTINUES

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 410 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THE "NEW LOOK" OF MOZAMBIQUE MEDIA CONTINUES TO DEVELOP, WITH GROWING UNIFORMITY BEHIND PRO-FRELIMO LINE OF MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATS, AND (IN CASE OF NOTICIAS) INCREASING FORAYS INTO ORTHODOX MARXISM AND AN INCIPIENT ANTI-AMERICANISM. UNLESS GOVERNMENT TAKES STEPS TO CHANGE MEDIA DIRECTION, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT NEW ORTHODOXY MAY ACHIEVE VIRTUAL INFORMATION MONOPOLY. END SUMMARY.

2. NOTICIAS. FLAUNTING ITS NEW RED MASTHEAD, MOZAMBIQUE'S MAJOR DAILY STILL REFLECTS STRONG MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRAT, PRO-FRELIMO LINE, WITH SOME COLUMNISTS TAKING INCREASINGLY ORTHODOX MARXIST TONE (DENUNCIATIONS OF BOURGEOISIE, NEO-COLONIALISM, ETC.). THERE IS NEW TENDENCY USE SOVIET
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KNOVOSTIN PRAVDA) VERSIONS OF NEWS STORIES, AND TO GIVE

STORIES AN ANTI-IMPERIALIST, ANTI-AMERICAN TWIST. ONLY MAJOR STAFF CHANGE SINCE REFTEL HAS BEEN DEPARTURE OF AREOSA PENA, WHO RESIGNED COMPLAINING OF REACTIONARY INTRIGUE AFTER IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF OLD REGIME'S PARAMILITARY CIVIL VOLUNTEER FORCE (OPVDC).

3. NOTICIAS' OFFICIAL LINE WAS WELL EXPRESSED IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL JUNE 15, IN WHICH DIRECTOR DR. PEREIRA COUTINHO DENOUNCED AS "BOYCOTTERS OF PEACE" THOSE WHO (1) MAKE CLAIMS ON BEHALF OF POLITICAL GROUPS PROCLAIMING "POLITICAL PSEUDO-DOCTRINES" CERTAIN TO "LACK ACCEPTANCE AND RECEPTIVITY"; (2) "IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SORDID PRIVILEGES BASED ON COLONIALIST EXPLOITATION, OPPOSE THE DENUNCIATION OF THE ENTIRE RETROGRADE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEM, WHICH IS COMPLETELY BROKEN DOWN AND ABSOLUTELY CONTRARY TO WELFARE OF PEOPLE"; (3) LEAVE MOZAMBIQUE CLAIMING "MORE THAN DOUBTFUL REASONS", THOUGH THEIR TALENTS NEEDED HERE; (4) DISCREDIT IN ANY WAY THOSE WHO, FOR GOOD OF MOZAMBIQUE, DO NOT RECOIL BEFORE "URGENT NECESSITY OF DISMANTLING AND ANNIHILATING THE WHOLE COLONIALIST AND FASCIST APPARATUS." WHILE NOTICIAS HAS NOT PRONOUNCED OFFICIALLY ON REFERENDUM QUESTION AS SUCH, THERE SEEMS NO DOUBT THAT IT SUPPORTS FRELIMO'S POSITION THAT POWER SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO FRELIMO WITHOUT ANY VOTE.

4. CERTAIN NEW NOTICIAS COLUMNISTS TAKING INCREASINGLY MARXIST LINE, DENOUNCING ALL OPPOSITION TO FRELIMO AS IMPERIALIST PROVOCATION. MOST FREQUENTLY APPEARING IS FERNANDO AMADO COUTO, WHO HEADED NOTICIAS JOURNALISTS COVERING LUSAKA TALKS, AND SHOSE VIEWS CAN BE SEEN FROM FOLLOWING QUOTE: "OUR UNITY IS UNITY OF WORKERS AND PEASANTS IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY, BREAD, PEACE AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. OUR UNITY IS NOT A STATIC PRINCIPLE. IT IS DIALECTICAL. IT IS BUILT ON THE CLASS SRUGGLE." MARCOS CUEMBELO, ON OTHER HAND, DENOUNCES "BOURGEOISIE" (IN WHICH HE APPEARS TO INCLUDE ALL AFRICANS WHO GOT ANYWHERE UNDER PREVIOUS REGIME) AND THREATENS ITS DESTRUCTION (IN SOMEWHAT ODD CONTRAST TO NOTICIAS' RECENT SERIES ON THE HAPPY LIVES OF PORTUGUESE WHITE BOURGEOISIE LIVING UNDER BLACK RULE IN ZAMBIA).

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TM ANTI-AMERICAN INSINUATIONS CONTINUE (SEE LOURENCO MARQUES 467), THOUGH SO FAR STILL MOSTLY LIMITED TO DISTORTION (E.G., STORY ON RECENT US BOOK ON CIA HEADLINED "CIA CENSORS BOOK ON IMPERIALIST OBJECTIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA"). A SPORTS COLUMNIST DENOUNCED BLACK AMERICAN BASKETBALL PLAYERS IN MOZAMBIQUE AS BEING TRAITORS TO THEIR RACE. SPINOLA AND PORTUGUESE JUNTA STILL GENERALLY EXEMPT FROM

CRITICISM, WITH SPINOLA SPEECHES FAVORING REFERENDUM PRINTED IN EXTENSO WITHOUT COMMENT, BUT NOTICIAS BROKE NEW GROUND JUNE 18 WITH LENGTHY COMMENTARY BY MIGUEIS LOPES JUNIOR ENTITLED "COLONIAL IMPASSE BETWEEN SPINOLISM AND MFA" (POSSIBLY REPRINTED FROM METROPOLE SOURCE) ANALYSING IN MARXIST TERMS ALLEGED RIGHTWARD SWING OF GOP, HINTING AT US-SOUTH AFRICAN-SPINOLA PLOT TO DO SOMETHING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND DEFINING "IMPASSE OF COLONIAL PROBLEM" AS REFUSAL OF LISBON FORGET ABOUT REFERENDUMS AND THE "SPINOLIST" DEFINITION OF SELF-DETERMINATION WHICH IS "REJECTED BY MASSES OF ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE AND GUINEA."

6. OPPOSITION PARTY COMMUNIQUE STILL GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY NOTICIAS, BUT GIVEN DECREASING PROMINENCE. CRITICAL LETTERS TO EDITORS ALSO STILL APPEAR OCCASIONALLY, THOUGH "MAN IN THE STREET" INTERVIEW ARTICLES USUALLY GIVE TOTAL SUPPORT TO NOTICIAS LINE. EDITORIAL VIEWS ARE UNABASHEDLY INCLUDED IN SUPPOSEDLY STRAIGHT NEWS ITEMS, THOUGH THIS NOT UNHEARD OF BEFORE REVOLUTION.

7. AFTERNOON DAILY TRIBUNA HAS REMAINED MORE MODERATE UNDER RUI KNOPFLI DIRECTORSHIP, THOUGH IT NOTICEABLY MORE LIBERAL THAN BEFORE APRIL 25. KNOPFLI HAS BEEN QUOTED IN NOTICIAS AS FAVORING A FREE REFERENDUM, THOUGH HE WOULD RECOGNIZE FRELIMO AS LEGITIMATE IF IT WON (MAKING CLEAR THAT RECOGNITION DID NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY APPROVAL). TRIBUNA CONTINUES USE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF USIS FEATURE ARTICLES.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LOURENCO MARQUES 0489

8. NOTICIAS DA BEIRA, OWNED UNTIL LAST WEEK BY JORGE JARDIM (SEE LOURENCO MARQUES 485) WAS TAKEN OVER BY ITS STAFF AT BEGINNING OF JUNE, WHO FORCED RESIGNATION OF ITS FORMER DIRECTORS AND CHOSE INSTEAD EDITOR-IN-CHIEF HENRIQUES COIMBRA AS ACTING DIRECTOR, ASSISTED BY HELIODORO BAPTISTA AND ARMINDO CAETANO DE SOUSA (THE LATTER AN AFRICAN JOURNALIST AND MEMBER BEIRA CITY COUNCIL). UNDER NEW DIRECTION IT HAS CONTINUED RELATIVELY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE AFRICAN AFFAIRS, INCLUDING THOROUGH AND HEAVILY PRO-FRELIMO COVERAGE OF LUSAKA TALKS. THOUGH IT HAS DONE LITTLE EDITORIALIZING, ITS COLUMNISTS ARE PRO-FRELIMO, PRO-MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATS, AND OFTEN PRO-SOCIALIST. IT HAS EVIDENTLY EARNED DISPLEASURE OF MANY BEIRA EUROPEANS, AS EVIDENCED DURING RECENT PRISON RIOT (LOURENCO MARQUES 480).

9. CHURCH-OWNED DIARIO IN LOURENCO MARQUES REMAINS MOST "CONSERVATIVE" PAPER, GIVING FULLEST COVERAGE TO ACTIVITIES OF ANTI-MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRAT GROUPS, AND PUBLISHING NUMEROUS COLUMNS AND LETTERS ENDORSING DEMOCRACY, FREE ELECTIONS
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AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, AND CRITICIZING ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE A NEW ORTHODOXY IN PLACE OF OLD. IT IS, HOWEVER, BANKRUPT AND UP FOR SALE, AND EUROPEAN-BASED FICO PARTY HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BUYING IT. GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT DIARIO WILL END UP BELONGING (LIKE NOTICIAS DA BEIRA) TO MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT. DIRECTOR DOS SANTOS HAS NOW GONE TO JOHANNESBURG FOR SERIOUS BRAIN OPERATION (NOTICIAS SUGGESTED THAT ILLNESS FAKED AND HE HAD SKIPPED TOWN), AND PAPER BEING RUN BY SUBORDINATES.

10. NOT MUCH CHANGE IN WEEKLIES. NEWSMAGAZINE TEMPO HAS NEW DIRECTOR, IN PERSON OF DEMOCRAT LAWYER RUI BALTAZAR, BUT RUI CARTAXANA CONTINUES AS REAL EDITOR; ITS LINE, AS SINCE REVOLUTION, IS PRO-DEMOCRAT AND PRO-FRELIMO. VOZ AFRICANA IS ALSO PRO-FRELIMO; ITS DEFECTOR EDITOR, DR. MIGUEL MURUPA, REMAINS OUT OF SIGHT (HE WROTE US HE WANTS TO CONTINUE LAW STUDIES IN PORTUGAL). O BRADO AFRICANO'S PARENT MOZAMBIQUE AFRICAN ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY PRO-FRELIMO GROUP WITH PLANS REORIENT THE PAPER FROM ITS PRESENT NON-POLITICAL, COMATOSE STANCE. A VOZ DE MOCAMBIQUE REMAINS AT LEFT END OF LOCAL SPECTRUM.

11. COMMENT: PAST THREE WEEKS HAS THUS SEEN GENERAL CONTINUATION OF TREND NOTED REFTEL. ONE CANNOT HELP REMARKING ON TONE, AS WELL AS POLITICAL SLANT, OF CONTEMPORARY MOZAMBIQUE PRESS. THOSE WHO MAY HAVE HOPED THAT PRESS FREEDOM WOULD BRING FORTH THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION MOZAMBIKAN PROBLEMS MUST BE DISAPPOINTED -- PRESS HAS CHANGED LARGELY IN DIRECTION OF SLOGANEERING, VITUPERATION, AND PETTY SPATS. FOR MANY EUROPEANS (AND POSSIBLY MANY AFRICANS AS WELL) WHO DO NOT LOOK ON THE COMING OF FRELIMO WITH REJOICING, THE PRESS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNREPRESENTATIVE. WHETHER THIS WILL TEND TO PREVENT DISCONTENT FROM TAKING ACTIVE FORM (AS THE PRESS AND THE DEMOCRATS CLEARLY HOPE), OR WHETHER RESENTMENT AT BEING PROGRESSIVELY EXCLUDED FROM EXPRESSION WILL TEND TO INCITE ACTION, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET TACKLED PRESS PROBLEM, BUT MILITARY SPOKESMAN (COL. RAMIRES RAMOS) TOLD US JUNE 18 THAT GOVERNMENT CONVERNED ABOUT PRO-FRELIMO BIAS OF PRESS AND CONSIDERING MEASURES TO ENSURE "QUALITY" OF REPORTING. RAMOS ESPECIALLY BITTER AT PRESS DISTORTIONS OF MILITARY CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTIVITY, IN PARTICULAR ATTRIBUTION OF FRELIMO ATTACKS TO DGS OR "REACTIONARY FORCES."
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Message Attributes

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